



The *Payam* was arrested for illegal fishing in Mozambican waters. (Photo: Mozpesca.gov.mz)

## Iranian-flagged fishing vessel arrested for IUU fishing



### MOZAMBIQUE

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Within the implementation of its port state control measures and the SADC IUU Statement of Commitment, the Mozambican Fisheries Authority arrested an Iranian flagged fishing vessel for illegally fishing in Mozambique's waters.

The Mozambican Fisheries Authority has intercepted the Iranian flagged fishing vessel *Payam* -- registered in the port of Shilat Chabahar (Iran) -- after having called to Mozambican port, the [Ministry of Fisheries](#) said in a statement.

The vessel had entered Mozambican waters without authorization and called Inhambane port on 10 March 2010, where it was arrested by the fisheries inspectors of the Inhambane Fisheries Provincial Directorate.

During the investigation, the captain declared that the vessel entered Mozambican waters from an unknown position after having steamed southward in Malagasy waters before calling to Inhambane port. The captain also said he was following instructions of the owner of the vessel and from a Nigerian citizen based in Maputo.

The captain declared he threw overboard 8 tonnes of fish and he didn't know where the fish were caught. The fishing vessel had no logbook onboard and the crew members had no identification documents. A drift net of 9 km long was found onboard and seized by the inspectors.

The owner and the captain of the *Payam* were fined USD 45,000 for fishing without fishing licence in Mozambican waters, for having no logbook onboard and for having



Seizure of the driftnet found on the illegal fishing vessel. (Photo: Ministry of Fisheries)

failed to comply with entry/exit EEZ reporting into the Mozambican waters. The 9 kilometre driftnet was seized and destroyed.

The Mozambican Fisheries Authority is patrolling regularly its waters with the maritime patrol vessel *Kuswag* under the command of the newly established MCS unit in Beira and participate actively to regional fisheries patrols organized in the framework of the SADC fisheries protocol and the EU-funded Regional Fishery Surveillance project managed by the Indian Ocean Commission.

The apprehension of the vessel *Payam* comes after the Mozambican Authority seized the Namibian-flagged longliner, *Antillas Reefer* in 2008 for fishing illegally in the Mozambican waters. The Ministry highlights that this apprehension demonstrates the commitment and the determination of the Mozambican government to eradicate IUU fishing in the Southern part of the Indian Ocean.

To increase its control and surveillance effort, the Ministry of Fisheries is considering to renovate the *Antillas Reefer* into a modern long-range patrol vessel in order to patrol its EEZ more efficiently.

[editorial@fis.com](mailto:editorial@fis.com)  
[www.fis.com](http://www.fis.com)